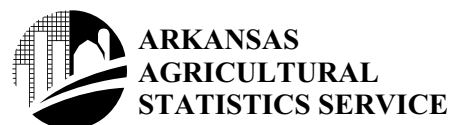


ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 2 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

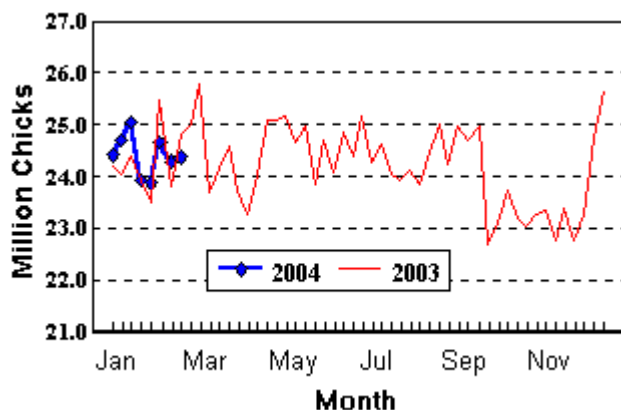
Broiler-type **chicks placed** for meat production in Arkansas was 24.4 million during the week ending February 21, 2004. Placements were down 2 percent from the comparable week in 2003, but up slightly from the revised previous week, and included 2.1 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 21, 2004 were 195.5 million, up 1 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type **chicks hatched** for the week was 25.7 million, up 2 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 1 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.1 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 83.0 percent.

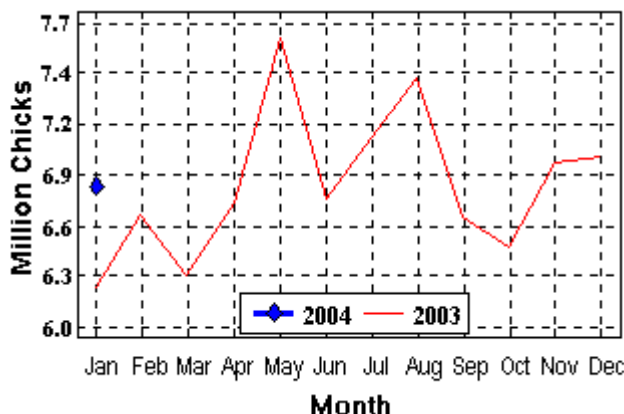
Arkansas hatcheries **set** 31.0 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending February 21, 2004, up 1 percent for the same period last year, but down fractionally from the previous week.

Leading breeders in the **UNITED STATES** placed 6.8 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during January 2004, up 9 percent from January 2003.

ARKANSAS BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS
BY WEEK, 2003- 2004



U.S. BROILER-TYPE PULLET CHICKS PLACED
FOR DOMESTIC HATCHERY SUPPLY FLOCKS



NET PLACEMENTS IN ARKANSAS

Week Ending	Year		% Change
	2003	2004	
	1,000		
Jan. 17	24,397	25,061	103
Jan. 24	23,950	23,942	100
Jan. 31	23,524	23,910	102
Feb. 7	25,475	24,701	97
Feb. 14	23,806	24,306	102
Feb. 21	24,856	24,415	98

U.S. PULLET CHICKS PLACED

Month	Year		% Change
	2002-2003	2003-2004	
	1,000		
Aug.	7,449	7,401	99
Sep.	6,676	6,654	100
Oct.	6,265	6,485	104
Nov.	6,938	6,946	100
Dec.	6,475	6,978	108
Jan.	6,269	6,811	109

BROILER EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2004

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	31-Jan	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb		17-Jan	24-Jan	31-Jan	07-Feb	14-Feb	21-Feb	
Alabama	29,084	29,171	29,273	29,778	106	21,967	22,008	22,264	21,502	21,695	20,929	99
ARKANSAS	30,944	30,374	31,055	31,008	101	25,061	23,942	23,910	24,701	24,306 *	24,415	100
Delaware	3,624	3,721 *	3,703	2,958	90	5,447	5,397	5,369	4,730 *	4,183 *	5,116	99
Florida	1,347	1,364	1,354	1,363	85	1,637	1,561	1,603	1,859	1,689	1,947	131
Georgia	33,063	33,374	32,887	33,292	106	26,153	25,937	25,636	25,821 *	25,613	26,000	102
Kentucky	6,459	7,099	7,013 *	6,958	109	5,541	5,744	5,254	5,582	4,545 *	5,620	102
Maryland	8,840	8,570	8,930	8,846	95	4,842	4,698	5,461	5,657 *	6,394 *	5,294	93
Mississippi	19,207	18,928	19,229	19,179	102	16,632	16,314	16,402	16,598	16,309	16,524	105
N. Carolina	17,556 *	18,097	18,385 *	18,610	99	14,115	13,863	14,303	14,056	14,246 *	14,067	100
Oklahoma	5,655	6,338	6,357 *	6,390	96	4,471	4,648	5,250	4,902	4,916 *	4,369	107
Pennsylvania	3,524	3,722	3,615 *	3,710	118	2,626	2,533	2,532	2,646	2,680 *	2,554	101
S. Carolina	3,646	3,638	3,488	3,767	78	3,467	4,308	4,204	4,162	4,154	4,154	112
Texas	14,802 *	14,785	14,976	14,949	101	12,018	11,865	12,098	12,165	12,172	12,211	103
Virginia	6,129	6,363	6,308	6,417	98	4,798	4,779	4,751	5,634	5,099	4,925	93
CA, LA, MO, IN, WV	20,562 *	20,986	20,965 *	21,191	105	17,754	17,918	19,061	18,912	18,851 *	18,523	102
Total 2004	204,442 *	206,530 *	207,538 *	208,416		166,529	165,515	168,098	168,927 *	166,852 *	166,648	
Total 2003	203,905	202,772	202,449	204,584		163,604	166,045	166,420	164,887	165,871	164,469	
%Prev. Year	100	102	103	102		102	100	101	102	101	101	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004.....						06-Mar	13-Mar	20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 2 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 208 million eggs during the week ending February 21, 2004. This was up 2 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 167 million chicks for meat production during the week ending February 21, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through February 21, 2004 were 1.34 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.